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THE GREATEST PARK IN THE WORLD

PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK

Its Purpose, History
and Achievements



By
ARTHUR P. ABBOTT

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AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

A casual trip to Bear Mountain first brought to me the realization that the Atlantic seaboard had at last secured a great park. And two vacation seasons spent among its natural beauties and in enjoyment of its offerings to the public have made me, as it has a host of others, most enthusiastic and optimistic as to its present and future.

And that others may enjoy what I have enjoyed so much, and he benefited as I have been, has been the inspiration of this little book.

My relation with the Park Commission has been no closer than that of hundreds of others who have become interested in this great project. For this reason this book can be considered in no way as being official or, so far as I am aware, reflecting the sentiments or plans of the Commission. Consequently, it is in no way an advertisement of the park or of any individual connected with it in an official capacity. I wish, however, to express my appreciation of the courtesies extended to me by the Commission and for assistance rendered by it in securing data.

There is a great deal of interesting information which space has not permitted me to use, as it has been my thought to present only such a summary as would direct attention to and arouse interest in what I firmly believe to be one of the greatest opportunities ever placed before a State or municipality for securing healthful vacation pleasures at small cost.

What Palisades Interstate Park has done for me it offers you, and if this little book enables you to secure a more bountiful share in its offerings or enlists you in the rapidly growing army of its enthusiastic friends, I shall feel I have added my mite to the world's work.

Arthur T. Affelt

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THE HERITAGE

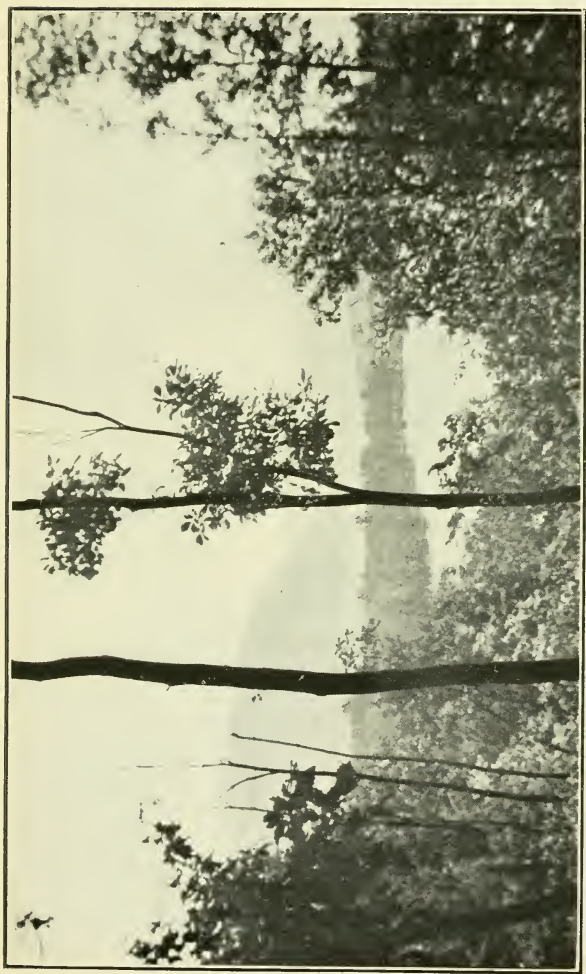
From out the city's stifling streets,
 Away from its noise and strife.
To wood that's green and babbling streams
 Unto Nature's joyous life,

The call comes strong from Summerland,
 From the mountains, lakes and streams,
Inviting all its rest to share
 And to dream its Summer dreams.

From Nature's cup that's brimming o'er
 With unstinted store of health,
We quaff a toast to ripe old age
 As heirs of its boundless wealth.

For beauteous land redeemed has been
 From Commerce's grasping fee,
A heritage through coming years
 And a joy to you and me.

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THE HERITAGE

This shows only a part of the "beautiful land" which has been redeemed and which will remain through all time as a priceless heritage to coming generations

THE CAUSE

In a diary kept by Robert Juet, who accompanied Henry Hudson on his voyage which resulted in the discovery of the Hudson River, we find these observations relative to the shores of the Hudson:

“The land was pleasant with grass and flowers and goodly trees as ever seen, and very sweet smells came from them.” And again as they proceeded farther up stream: “We went on land to walk on the west side of the river and found good ground for corn and other garden herbs, with great store of goodly oaks, walnut trees, yew trees and trees of sweet wood in great abundance, and a great store of slate for houses and other good stones.” Then as they returned to the Palisades: “Hard by was a cliff that looked of the color of white green as though it were either copper or silver mine, and I think it to be one of them by the trees that grew upon it. For they were all burned, and the other places were as green as grass.” (This refers to a certain cliff on the Palisades which was destroyed by the quarrymen but did not contain either silver or copper.)

Thus we see the first representatives of the white race to visit this region were attracted by its beauty and commercial possibilities. And ever since that time both features have appealed, but with a preference for the commercial. And had it not been that on this great waterway with its shores of “goodly looking land” there had been located a great city with its teeming population, no doubt those “goodly oaks and great quantities of

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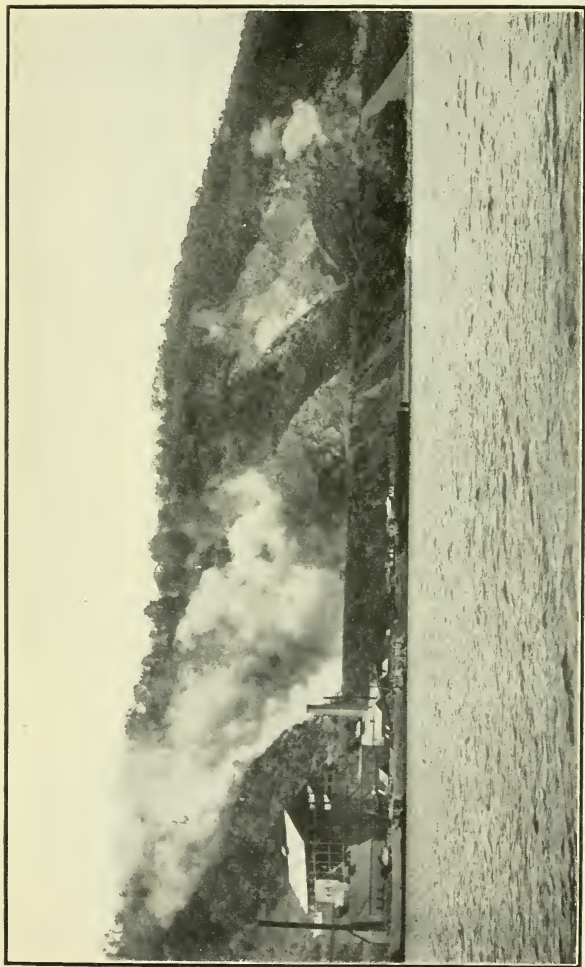
good stones " would have caused its scenic beauties to be sacrificed on the altar of commercialism.

Before the quarryman's drill the picturesque and famous Palisades were fast crumbling. The goodly oaks were being stripped from the hills and mountain sides and the world-famed Rhine of America was fast becoming the rubbish heap of industry. Such a momentum had this commercial vandalism received, that to stem its progress and halt forever its activities was a task of no small moment. Lovers of American scenery, men and women alive to the greater service possible through conservation of its parkway possibilities, began this stupendous task.

Space does not permit the detailing of this struggle and great cost in money and unselfish and unceasing effort. Suffice to say that today the hand of the vandal has been arrested and the masses are beginning to reap the fruits of their endeavor. With the tide of commercialism stemmed, and this great work now under the guidance of an organized and efficient body, what the future has in store is most attractive and gratifying. What has been done, the purpose and aim of the Board of Commissioners, the offerings to the public, the possibilities of the future and some interesting items as to its past, will constitute the theme of this book.

It was not the hopes, and it may not have been the dreams, of the pioneers in this great undertaking, to achieve, at so early a date, the great results already secured. The thought at first was to preserve the Palisades. Here the fight was begun and greatest battles waged. But when victory here had been won, the practicability and desirability of continued endeavor farther up the river

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THE CAUSE

"The shores of the Rhine of America were fast becoming the rubbish heap of industry." Here is shown a stone quarry in action

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became more clear if not imperative. Then about this time came the magnificent gift of Mrs. E. H. Harriman of some ten thousand acres of land and one million of dollars, followed by other millions in money from private and public sources, with the now famous Bear Mountain tract turned over by the State of New York. Thus in rapid succession and in incredible time the Park Commission fell heir to a large portion of the Hudson Highlands and other lands of nearly equal beauty, and the most daring dream of a great park, the greatest park in the world, was realized.

So rapidly has this taken place, so magnificent and stupendous the undertaking, that while the Board has accomplished wonders, if not miracles, their efforts have of necessity been scattered over a large territory. This has made it impossible to make the showing in any one place which would have been possible had the efforts they have put forth been centered. Another item which has made progress more slow is that among the various tracts turned over, many private holdings were scattered. A great many of these were necessary to acquire in order to unify and make more useful and valuable the parcels already in hand. To examine titles and wait on the movements of courts takes time. And that funds be not spent in paying exorbitant prices for land or pursuing projects which may be more economically carried on at a more opportune time, delays have occurred in prosecuting plans already laid.

THE PURPOSE

We have already observed that the prime object was to preserve the Palisades. And while such is yet a strong and important motive, the purpose has broadened till today it has for its aim the providing of a great playground and recreation field for the masses, old or young, rich or poor. As "sleep knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care," so recreation heals the bodily ills, lengthens life and makes society more pure.

Nature's teachings are the teachings of the Creator. A knowledge of Nature and communion with her children make man stronger, broader and better. The life of a great city may sharpen the wits, but contact with nature will broaden and deepen the understanding. Every great municipality is fully alive to the vital necessity of breathing spots and the importance that such spots be places where its population can become acquainted in a small way, at least, with nature. The flowers speak a language which appeals to all that is good in the human soul. The birds are nature's minstrels whose songs are messengers of cheer. The trees, the streams, the lakes, the hills and valleys are nature's sanctuary and that soul must be dead indeed that does not worship on entering it.

Alive to these facts and to the thought that this great natural park lies at the door of the greatest city on the globe, with its busy millions of population, the purpose is to use the park as a mighty agency for health and morality.

At the beginning of vacation time, the schools turn

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THE PURPOSE

"The aim of the park is to provide a recreation ground for the rich and poor, old and young." Here are seen some of the thousands entering the park from boat at Alpine for a Summerday outing

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on the hot and dangerous streets an army of those who will be the actors of the next generation. And there is no child so pure, no home so sacred, that the evil influences of the streets will not reach them in some manner. The papers daily chronicle lists of lives of children crushed out on the streets, and the juvenile courts are overworked with cases of misconduct, the greater part of which could be prevented by removing a part, at least, to some healthful country retreat during the vacation season. What this great park is today doing and will for all time do in this direction, is and will be each year, worth its cost to the States interested, to say nothing of the individual.

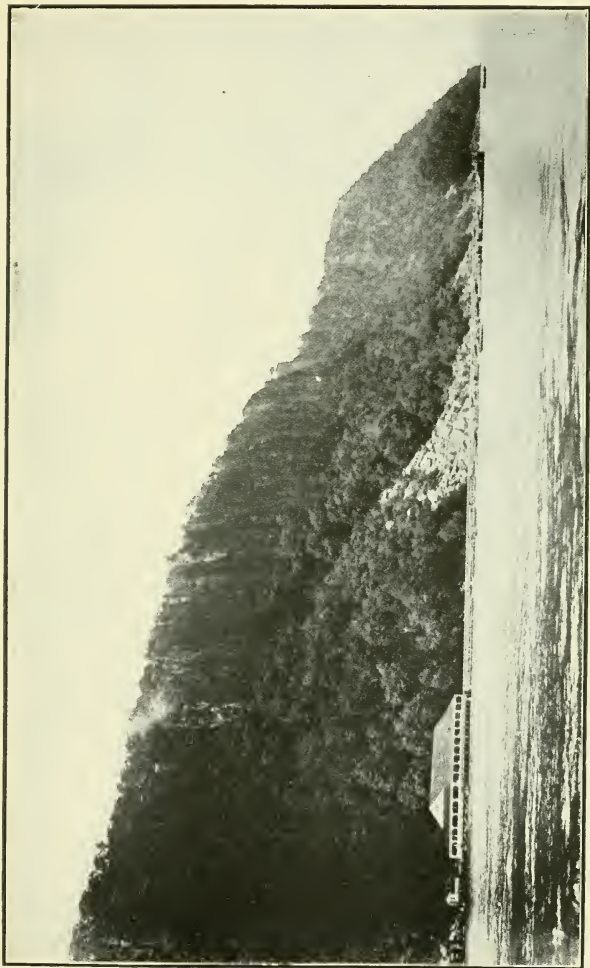
As great as are its offerings to the season visitor, there is yet another purpose which is nearly as great, and that is the provision made and being planned for the day visitor. The Park Commission is rapidly building some of the most substantial and perfect highways found in America, through its vast domains. These will for all time provide easy access to the interior, which contains some of the most beautiful scenery found on the face of the globe. Mountains, hills, valleys, forests, streams and highland lakes are traversed in unceasing number and never ending beauty. These roadways are being built to withstand the test of time and will forever remain a proud monument to their builders. The roar of exploding dynamite and the rattle of the steam drill are waking the echoes which not since the days of the Revolution have been disturbed. But this is an army of peace and progression and its conquests are for the benefit of mankind.

Those who cannot avail themselves of the pleasure of an inland journey will find the mighty Hudson has been

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employed for their benefit. Upon its majestic tide is a fleet of floating palaces which daily pass along some forty miles of the park's intermittent river front. Some day, no doubt, this river frontage with some twenty or thirty additional miles will be connected. Docking facilities have been provided at different points, and these, owing to the rapidly growing popularity of the park, are being enlarged. Through this medium, for an insignificant sum of money, all can avail themselves of the park's many offerings in the way of a Summerday outing. Of what these offerings consist the reader will learn on following pages.

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THE PALISADES

"As the evening shadows fall, they stand dark and grim like the ramparts of some mighty fortress"

PARK DIVISIONS

For the purpose of better describing this great park, we will divide it into three sections: The Palisades, Bear Mountain and Harriman Estate. Each of these we will take up separately, giving a brief review of their history, general appearance and points of interest.

PALISADES

The Palisades of the Hudson River have been a source of interest and wonder to the civilized world ever since the *Half Moon* weighed anchor before them. Besides being the chief point of interest in the lower reaches of the river, they have received much attention from geologists. The word "Palisades" is a most fitting title, for they form an unbroken line of perpendicular rock varying in height from near sea level to 550 feet. The stone is dark gray and blue black in color and of a very hard formation. As the evening shadows fall upon the river, they stand dark, grim and stately, like the ramparts of some mighty fortress. If on their silent face there could have been recorded the historic scenes which have passed before or upon them, no student of history, no lover of romance, no American patriot, could ask for a more fascinating volume.

Their lower reaches are washed by the main arm of the greatest harbor in the world. From their summit can be seen one of the busiest maritime pictures possible.

Ocean liners, those leviathans of the deep, bringing the multitudes of aliens to our shores, can be seen seeking rest from their tempestuous voyages or sailing away to the open sea to foreign shores. Fussy tug boats, busy laden ferries, palatial river steamers and ever and anon a fleet of those bulldogs of the sea, with their mighty guns, pass in review. Then, as a reminder of the past, a sailer with her storm-stained sails tacks leisurely along, grateful for every breeze which escapes this rocky barrier. At their feet nestles a fringe of trees and shrubbery, with every now and then a sloping grass-plot. These, together with vines entwining and trellising their rocky sides, present a trim which is irresistible to the artist and inviting to those who find a tent in nature's garden an attraction.

In this delightful seclusion the Indian pitched his tent and placed high above on their rocky summit sentries to watch for the foe. But today the tent of the Summer visitor has taken their place and the Park Commission acts as the sentinel.

The first recorded history of the Palisades is found in the records of the Dutch West India Company, written in the early part of the seventeenth century. At that time the great Leni Lempi, or Delaware nation, as named by the whites, occupied the west bank of the Hudson up to the Catskill Mountains. The tribes of this nation occupying the Palisades were the Hackensacks, Raritans and Tappans. These met the whites with offerings of peace and received in return the bitter cup of avarice and greed. They have melted from the Palisades like the winter snows and, aside from the names they gave to certain localities, they have left no trace. However,

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the history of their dealings with the whites will be found most interesting.

During the Dutch period there were erected many picturesque homes, many of which are standing today and some occupied by the descendants of their builders. Aside from the many Indian wars which from time to time disturbed the sleepy tranquility, yet sturdy progress, the whole period reads as a pleasant pastoral. It is not till the Dutch have been swallowed up in the game of colonization and have become part of a great country, which is soon to step into the ranks of nations, that the Palisades again provide events of stirring and historic interest.

Those who have read Washington's letters to the Continental Congress know that at every opportunity he brought before and urged them to spare no time or expense in building defences of the Hudson River; for if the Hudson came into possession of the enemy, the cause would suffer its greatest loss. The reason for this is fully set forth in the narration of the storming of forts Clinton and Montgomery. At a point on the Palisades now known as Fort Lee, a fort was built and named Fort Constitution. This name was changed to Fort Lee on October 18th, 1776, in honor of General Chas. Lee, who afterward proved a traitor to his country. On the opposite shore, a little to the north, was constructed another and stronger line of fortifications, the main works of which was named, in honor of the Commander-in-Chief, Fort Washington. These two forts were connected by an obstruction across the Hudson River, consisting of two sunken brigs, two large ships mounted with heavy guns, 200 iron fraise of 400 lbs. weight each

and logs and other material. Thus it will be seen that while the river flowed between, they were each part of an elaborate scheme of river fortifications. The storming and capture of Fort Washington has been told so frequently that it need not be repeated here. Suffice to say that its capture, with the consequent evacuation of Fort Lee, "came within an ace of overwhelming the American cause in irretrievable ruin," to use the words of an American historian. An item worth mentioning in this connection was the heroic act of one of the many "Molly Pitchers" of the Revolution. Margaret Corbin, wife of John Corbin, who was a matross in the first company volunteers of Pennsylvania artillery, was in Fort Washington with her husband and when he was killed took his place at the gun and served it till shot down severely wounded by grape shot. After the surrender she was paroled to General Green at Fort Lee and taken with other sick and invalid soldiers to Philadelphia. After the war she came back to the Hudson and settled down at a place called Swim Town, now Highland Falls, near West Point. Here she died and her grave, though known, lies unmarked and uncared for some five miles south of West Point on a rocky hillside overlooking the Hudson River. She was the first woman to receive a pension from our Government, and the records of such are still to be seen at West Point in the handwriting of Captain Wm. Price, Quartermaster at West Point during the period following the close of the war.

There are several interesting historic spots on the Palisades. On September 26th, 1900, a monument was erected on the site of Fort Lee. This monument represents Revolutionary soldiers scaling the Palisades. A

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few traces of the fort are still to be seen as well as soldiers' ovens cut from the rock. The "Washington spring," which furnished water to the fort, is still flowing. Several old-time houses of Revolutionary fame are still standing and those under the jurisdiction of the park are being carefully preserved. Another interesting monument is that of Alexander Hamilton, who was killed here in a duel with Aaron Burr. The monument consists of a bust of Hamilton surmounting a boulder against which, so says tradition, Hamilton was laid when shot.

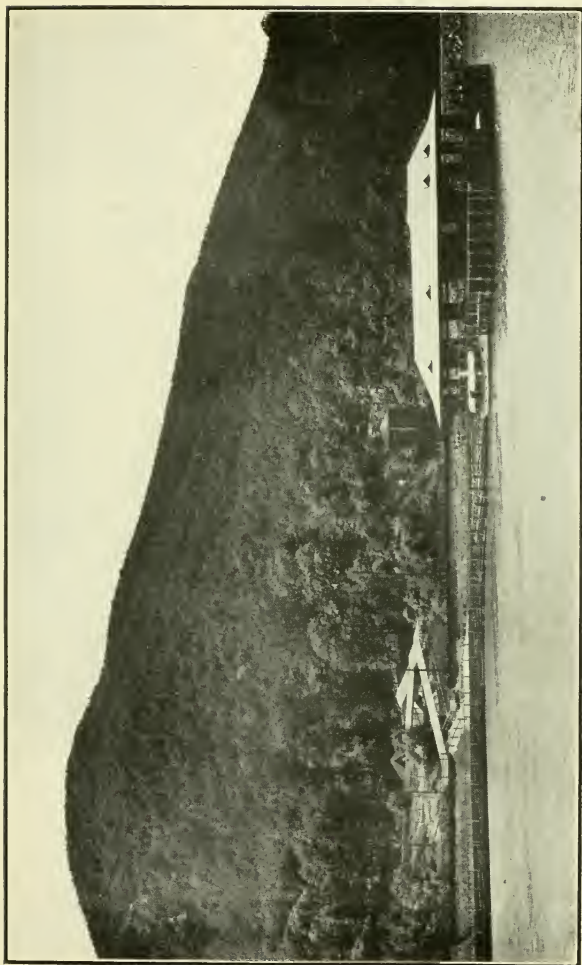
Near the northern end of the Palisades is the village of Palisades. This locality is rich in Revolutionary history, as it is near Sneed's Landing, spoken of so frequently by writers on the Revolutionary War. It was near here that the body of the unfortunate Major Andre was first buried. It was afterward taken to England. It was at this landing that the American flag was first saluted by direct order of the British Parliament. Thus it will be seen that the Palisades have other and very strong claims for their preservation aside from their scenic value. In fact, both banks of the Hudson River from its source to its mouth are so sacred in American history that, aside from being the Rhine of America, it may be properly called the shrine of America. And no project of the present day is more important than the preservation of these priceless mementoes; for they stand as reminders to present and future generations of the great struggle and sacrifice through which was borne the greatest nation in all the world's history, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

BEAR MOUNTAIN SECTION

Inasmuch as this section has already become, and no doubt will always remain, the eastern gateway and most important section, it is well that a much fuller account be given of its history and points of interest. And while the writer will endeavor to refrain from wearying his readers with routine and lesser details, he will present such items as will disclose the fact that few localities in America are richer in points of interest and history. In this manner he hopes to be able to make more interesting and valuable a visit to this section of the park.

In the first place, strictly speaking, Bear Mountain itself is not a mountain at all, but a very high hill, 1314 feet high at its highest point. It has until recently been known as Bear Hill. The reason given for this seems to be that in early days the bears made their homes in large numbers among the rocks and caves which cover the entire mountain. Not only did they make their homes here, but they made many paths which crossed at different points and which lead to other peaks surrounding. The best reason why the bears should be so partial to this mountain or hill is due to the fact that its entire summit is covered with luscious blue and bear berries, of which the bears are very fond. The last bear seen on Bear Mountain was killed about 1845 by a sportsman wheelwright named Isaac Stickles. A few of the older folk are alive today who saw the carcass of this bear and enjoyed some of its steak. One of these is a Mrs. Rose, widow of a soldier of the War of 1812, and of course one

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BEAR MOUNTAIN

From the summit of this peak one secures a most entrancing view of the world-famed Hudson Highlands.

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of the very few remaining pensioners of that war. As a small girl she saw the men bring the carcass in on a wagon and to her it seemed larger than an ox. One of its feet was subsequently nailed to a barn door and so remained for many years.

From the eastern summit of Bear Mountain one secures a panoramic view of the Hudson River as it winds its way through the highlands and loses itself in the haze or disappears behind some distant peak. On the opposite shore Anthony's Nose rears its head, but not sufficient to obstruct the view from behind it. The village of Peekskill lies in plain view and the playgrounds of the park and Highland Lake are shown as a vast relief map in natural colors. A trail has been made up this side which begins near the park office and winds about till the top is reached. Near the top and close to the trail a tiny mountain stream of cold pure water comes tumbling down the side of the mountain and furnishes very welcome refreshment to the climber. This stream, however, in very dry seasons, disappears from the surface and flows down through the rock beneath. A good climber can reach the summit in about half an hour. If he has time he will be wise if he continues across the top of the mountain to the western peak, which is some 100 feet higher. Here one of the most beautiful and fascinating views found in all the world is revealed to him. As far away as the eye can reach stretch highland ranges. Mountain roads dotted with quaint farm houses, lakes reflecting the cloud land, villages, streams and woodlands comprise a picture of poetic beauty which no brush can paint or pen adequately describe. While there is nothing to awe with a sense of sublimity, yet to a lover of poetic, scenic beauty

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it appeals and enthralls. The eye of the camera can catch its outlines but cannot hold on its film the inspiration which comes to one beholding with the eye. Here one realizes that he does not need to cross the ocean to see highland scenery, for here it is in both quality and quantity.

In approaching Bear Mountain from the south, by river, the observer will be perplexed at seeing ahead what appears to be an abrupt ending of the stream. For across the channel stands a range of forest-clad hills known as the Manitou Range. But as one approaches, a pass will be discovered at the left through which the river flows. On entering this, one begins the passage of the famous Hudson Highlands. The Dunderbergs at the left gradually recede and Bear Mountain appears directly in front. On the right a peak, 1228 feet in height, known as Anthony's Nose, rises abruptly from the water and faces Bear Mountain across the river. At the foot of Bear Mountain lies a plateau some 150 feet above the river. On this are located the park playgrounds, Highland Lake and park buildings. On the brink of the plateau and facing the river is planted a towering steel flagstaff from which the beautiful folds of Old Glory rise and fall on the highland breezes. Up the river and just north of the playgrounds are two cliffs on the summits of which lie the remains of Forts Clinton and Montgomery. This spot was the Gibraltar of the Hudson River during Revolutionary days.

It is the habit of writers of American history to treat the Indians as a race of barbarians whose only excuse for receiving attention at all was that they annoyed the first settlers. The tomahawk and scalping knife would

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appear to be their only possessions and war their only occupation. That they had homes and loved ones, that they had a government and knew the arts of husbandry, that they loved and revered the land of their fathers, seems to be wholly lost sight of. Yet the Indian whose home was located in the region bounded by the Bear Mountain section possessed all these, and virtues, I am sad to say, not practiced by the white race. Their orchards and gardens, their homes and villages, were as much a source of pride to them as the homes and villages of the inhabitants of today. That the reader may better understand these earliest inhabitants, it is well to take a panoramic view of their relations and customs. The Algonquin nation was the mother of many other nations. Two of her children occupied both banks of the Hudson River—the Mohegans on the east, from its source to its mouth, and on the west from its source to the Catskill Mountains; the Leni Lempi, or Delawares, on the west bank from the Catskills down to the coast. Each nation was distinct and had its own local and general government; the capital of the Mohegans being at Schodac, a little below Albany, and that of the Delawares at what is now Philadelphia. Each nation was divided into tribes and each tribe into clans and families. Their government was democratic in the extreme. The Indian knew or tolerated no master, and such being the case, all laws were made with the understanding that their observation was optional with the individual. However, when a law was passed at a general council, or a regulation or policy adopted by a tribe, public opinion made the breaking of such undesirable and unprofitable.

The tribes occupying the Bear Mountain section at

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the time of the coming of the whites were the Haverstraws and Waornecks, the latter claiming the territory by title and the former using it as a hunting ground. This often gave rise to friction between the two tribes and not infrequently led to bloodshed. The whites who first "purchased" the land would often need to purchase it twice, first from one tribe and then another, and sometimes several times from the same tribe. This loose system was practiced till the British secured control, when all land transfers, to be legal and binding, must be recorded with the Government.

Robert Juet, before mentioned as being with Hudson, refers to these Indians as "a loving people." And one who reads the writings of the early missionaries will find this title well founded.

The beautiful lakes, valleys, hills and streams just described were their home, and dusky Indian lovers wandered along the shores of Lake Assinnapink, as the Indians called Highland Lake, many centuries before those of today. Their bark canoes ruffled its mirror-like waters and shouts of merry laughter re-echoed along the wooded sides of Bear Mountain, as do those of the day visitor and camping parties now. They plucked the snow-white lily along its borders and enjoyed its fragrance. The sublime sunrises and sunsets were watched by them in enraptured admiration and wonder. But, like the sunsets, they have faded away into the night of the past and only their beautiful home and land of their fathers remains. This, through the fortunate possession of the park, becomes your and my priceless possession and a heritage unto generations to come.

The first white person to secure valid title to the Bear

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Mountain tract was that land-hungry old Dutchman, Stephanus Van Cortlandt. He had previously secured some twenty thousand acres of land on the opposite shore of the Hudson, which included Anthony's Nose, but the land on the Bear Mountain side looked too tempting for him to resist. So on July 13th, 1683, he secured a tract, described in the deed as follows: "Beginning on the south side of a creek called Saukapogh, and so along said creek to the head thereof, and then northerly along the high hills as the river runneth to another creek called Assinnapink, and thence along said creek to the Hudson River again, together with a certain island and parcel of meadow land near or adjoining same, called Manahawagh-kin, and by the Christians, Salsbury Island." The signers of this deed were Sackaghemick, chief of the Haverstraws, and Werekepesand Kaghtsikoos, owners of the property. The streams referred to in the deed relate to a small marsh stream south of Iona Island, mentioned as Salsbury Island, and the tiny stream which is the outlet of Highland Lake. The meaning of Assinnapink was water from the rock. The hills no doubt refer to Bear Mountain. It will be noticed that this cautious old Dutchman secured the signature of the chief of the tribe so there could be no dispute as to the right to sell. It was the custom to secure the consent of a tribe, as often the lands were held in common and the act of the individual would not be binding on the tribe. The force of this becomes apparent when one learns that another deed was given to other parties to this same parcel of land by some of the same Indians as signed the Van Cortlandt deed, but Van Cortlandt was wise enough to secure the name of the chief and also to properly record his deed so that his title stood.

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It is interesting to note here what the Indians received in payment for their lands. The following list was the purchase price of a stretch of land from where Cornwall now stands down to Haverstraw. Compare this list of junk to the prices paid today and bear in mind at the same time that those who sold at that time occupied the land, cultivated parts of it, and that it was their home and the land of their fathers for unknown generations: 150 fathoms of wampum, 120 Royals, 20 fathoms of Duffels, 6 guns, 7 brass kettles, 8 blankets, 6 fathoms of strouds, 2 cloth coats, 2 broad axes, 5 pair shoes, 6 children's shirts, 20 knives, 50 lbs. powder, 30 bars of lead, 25 lbs. shot, 2 rolls tobacco, 4 iron pots, 10 tobacco tongues, 10 tobacco boxes, 4 lbs. brood, 2 half vats single beer, 2 half vats of double beer, 5 glass bottles, 5 earthen jugs, 2 pewter dishes, 2 bottles with rum, 100 tobacco pipes, 10 hatchets, 6 drawing knives, 4 adzes, 10 hoes, 10 pair stockings, 8 shirts, 6 pistols, 10 children's blankets, 2 boys' cloth coats, 6 boys' duffle coats, 20 gal. rum. It will be noted that rum and beer had a prominent place in the inventory and it is interesting to read how after the rum had been sold to the Indians for their homes and they became intoxicated and scalped those who sold to them, they were called fiends, savages, etc. The facts are, they were irresponsible children whom the whites took advantage of in every way which they thought would accrue to their benefit and were not charitable enough to blame themselves for the consequences. This was the policy of the whites then and has been ever since.

The history of this section from the Dutch period down to the Revolutionary period was that of all other sections along the Hudson River. It is the Revolutionary

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period which furnishes its greatest historic interest to the visitor.

The Battle of Bunker Hill taught King George III and his board of strategy two things: First, that the Colonists could and would fight effectually, and, second, that to conquer them it would be necessary to use a much larger army and carefully laid plans. As this board of strategy became better acquainted with Washington's tactics and ability, they saw that most elaborate and extensive plans were necessary. The Hudson River, it was plain, was the key to the situation. If this could be secured, New England would be separated from the southern Colonies, and in this manner they could be kept apart and subdued one at a time. To accomplish this it was planned to send General Burgoyne to Canada and have him invade New York from the head waters of the Hudson.

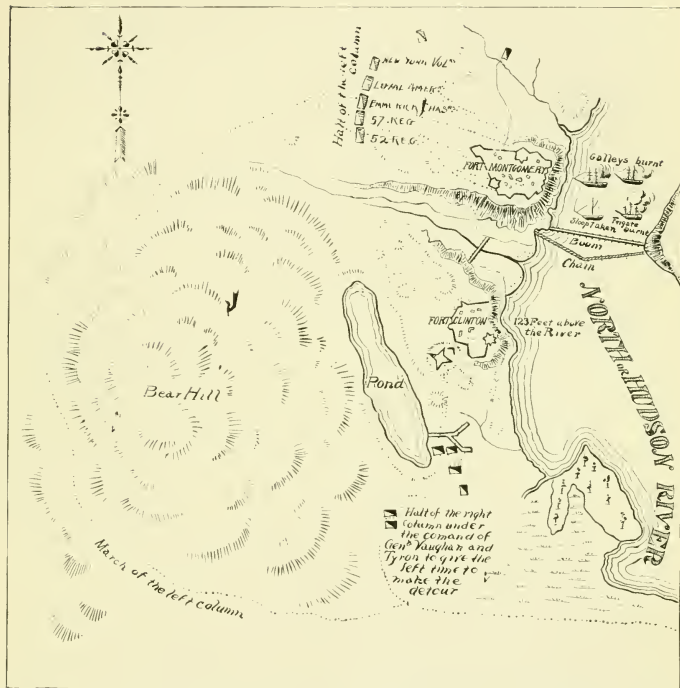
General Sir Henry Clinton, at New York City, was to move up the Hudson and meet Burgoyne at Albany, and when this meeting took place the Hudson would be in British hands and the beginning of the end of the war in sight. Burgoyne was a court favorite and fond of boasting. He was given an army of over 8,000 men and a complete equipment of arms and ammunition. In these provisions was a goodly supply of wine and other delicacies which he boasted would grace the table at which he and Clinton would sit down on Christmas Day in Albany. It was to be one grand triumphal procession, and Burgoyne was hailed as the great man of the day. But all these plans and boasts were made without consulting Washington, Allen, Arnold, Schuyler, Stark and a host of others who could have, had they been so disposed, given valuable

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pointers on fighting in the wilderness and against American minute men and American patriots.

Every locality covered by the armies in the war of the Revolution claims to have a house where Washington had his headquarters and where he slept. But judging from what he did during that period, he may have had many headquarters, but he slept but very little anywhere while this campaign was on. By constant hammering and pleading with Continental Congress, he succeeded in securing funds to fortify the Hudson River in the Highlands. This point was recognized as the most formidable along the river, for here the river is confined between high banks and the current is very swift and the winds uncertain. The latter was an important item in those days of sailing vessels. The Highlands have ever been an uncertain element in the reckoning of river captains who have to depend on sails for propulsion. This is caused by the whirling and constantly changing currents of air which are twisted about by the mountains and valleys of the Hudson Highlands. One can get a very realistic demonstration of these air currents by watching low-lying clouds passing over the tops of Bear Mountain and Anthony's Nose. The fortifications thus erected consisted of four forts—one at Peekskill, named Fort Independence; two near Bear Mountain, Forts Clinton and Montgomery, and one up the river at what is now West Point, called Fort Constitution. At Anthony's Nose a chain and boom were stretched across the river. This chain was 1,800 feet long. In the river just above the chain were five ships equipped with guns: two frigates, two galleys and an armed sloop, which were destroyed and burned when the forts were captured. Fort Independence

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MAP SHOWING THE FORTIFICATIONS OF THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS AT BEAR MOUNTAIN DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

This map was drawn from a survey made by Major Holland, Surveyor General, and Lieutenant John Knight, A. D. 1777. They were surveyors in the service of His Majesty King George III of England. The original map is in the archives of the Department of War, London.

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was in command of Israel Putnam, who also had command of the other river fortifications at this point. Putnam had a considerable force at Fort Independence, consisting largely of New England troops. The prime object of Fort Independence was to defend the passes of the Hudson on the east shore. Forts Clinton and Montgomery were in immediate command of Governor George Clinton, first Governor of New York, the State capital then being at Kingston. Clinton's brother was also in a sub-command at Fort Clinton. By an arrangement of beacon fires by night and firing of cannon by day, signals were given to the surrounding country for the assembly of minute men upon which the forts depended for support. Forts Clinton and Montgomery had only a handful of men constantly at the forts. This was the situation when on October 3d, 1777, Sir Henry Clinton began his movement up the river to meet Burgoyne. Knowing the strength of the highland fortifications, Clinton had remained at New York for reinforcements, while Howe at the same time moved against Philadelphia to draw Washington away from the Hudson. This move compelled Washington to not only go to Philadelphia in person, but to withdraw all the troops possible from the Highlands. On moving up the river Clinton landed a small force at a point below Peekskill in order to deceive Putnam and lead him to believe that Fort Independence and the passes on the east shore were to be assaulted. After accomplishing his purpose in this direction, he withdrew and landed his entire force on the west shore near Stony Point and, through the assistance of Tory guides, made his way around the Dunderbergs to a point near a hamlet called Doodletown, on the back side of Bear Mountain. Here

he divided his forces, the left wing going around Bear Mountain on the west and the right wing around Bear Mountain on the east; the left wing to attack Fort Montgomery and the right Fort Clinton. Putnam made as his excuse for being so fooled that a dense fog hung over the river and he could not see the movements of the British. However, it takes but a casual look at the geographical situation to see how easy it would have been for Putnam to have placed minute men over and around the Dunderbergs, who could have fired signals in case the enemy should attempt such a move. And had he had the wisdom of a Washington this would have been done and the whole of Clinton's force could, no doubt, have been bottled up and captured. Governor Clinton, however, was not asleep, and had anticipated such a move. He had sent scouts along the road, but these failed to discover the enemy until they had reached Doodletown. Clinton then hurriedly sent a small force to meet the enemy and attempt to hold them in check till he could get word to Putnam. The messenger first sent to Putnam proved a traitor and it was not till late in the afternoon, when the boom of artillery awoke Putnam from his delusion, that reinforcements were started to the relief of Forts Clinton and Montgomery. In the meanwhile another detachment was sent around Bear Mountain to meet the left wing. The British numbered some 4,000, while those at Forts Clinton and Montgomery had mustered only about 600 up to the time the forts were assaulted. In those days what is now known as the playgrounds at Bear Mountain was heavily wooded and the advance squad sent from Fort Clinton took advantage of these woods and hotly contested every

inch of the ground between Doodletown and Fort Clinton. They slowly fell back till they reached an outer work of Fort Clinton located at the south end of Highland Lake. This consisted of a stone wall covered with logs and brush. Here a determined stand was made and some 200 British and Hessian soldiers fell before the accurate fire of Highland farmers. A good part of this stone wall is still standing and can be seen by visitors to this part of the park. After the battle the bodies of the dead were thrown into Highland Lake at this point, and from that time on the lake was known as Hessian or Bloody Pond. This wall was held till a battery consisting of four guns was brought up and a part of it demolished. The defenders then retreated to Fort Clinton, some thirty rods farther north. A portion of the breastworks of Fort Clinton are in a perfect state of preservation today and are easily reached by the day visitor by a few minutes' walk. The squad sent around Bear Mountain to meet the left wing carried one field piece and were later reinforced by a second. With these they halted the enemy and held them in check for some time, till seeing the folly of continuing along the road, the enemy took to the surrounding woods and began encircling the brave little band holding the road. These then spiked their guns and retreated to Fort Montgomery, which lies about a mile to the north of Fort Clinton. Then from about two o'clock in the afternoon of October 7th, 1777, till nightfall this determined handful of patriots defended the forts. At dusk, after making a formal demand of surrender, the British, who outnumbered the defenders nearly six to one, charged with bayonets, and took possession of both forts, Putnam's tardy reinforce-

ments never reaching the forts. About 230 Americans were captured and taken to New York City to suffer worse than death in the notorious prison hulks of the British. Some have estimated that the British lost over 600 men. The killed and wounded on the American side was never known, but was very light. The reason there was no list of the American losses of killed and wounded was on account of the haste with which the greater part were assembled. They had come at the call of the beacon fires and signal gun with flint locks taken from above the fireplace and bullets hot from the mold. The list of the names of the captured is, however, in existence today. On this list is one named Vinegar. Pepper and Mustard must have escaped for, from the determined and spirited stand they made, it is reasonable to suppose they all three were there.

The victory so dearly bought by the British was without profit, for Burgoyne the boastful, who was going to do so much, was soon to be a captive in the hands of the Army of the North, and his precious wines and other viands in the stomachs of American patriots. So, as soon as Sir Henry Clinton learned of this, which was not till after he had advanced above the forts and burned Kingston, he hurriedly returned to New York City. Thus it will be seen that these two old forts performed well their part, for by delaying Clinton till Burgoyne had been captured, the Hudson River, with its vital importance to the American cause, was saved, and to this day no foe has been its master. No patriotic American can stand on the remnants of their ramparts without a feeling that he is standing on hallowed ground. For of all the wars of time, none have been so fruitful of

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LANDING AT BEAR MOUNTAIN

A view of the landing where hundreds of thousands each season enter, by boat and rail, the great Bear Mountain section from its eastern gateway

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good to mankind as the war which made possible a haven of refuge for the world's oppressed.

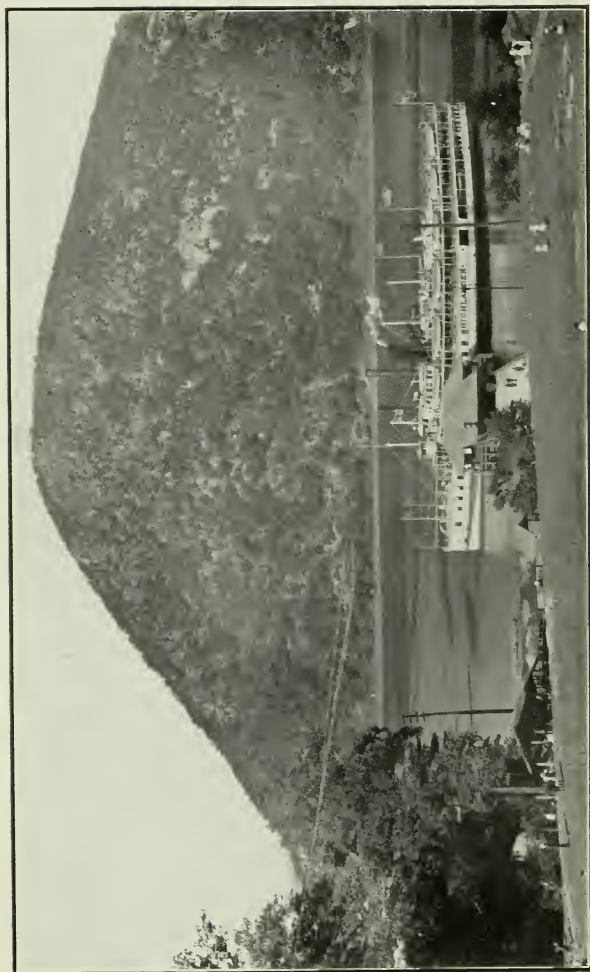
Go stand on their crumbling ramparts,
Ye who know our nation's past,
And from the silence that enwraps them
A nobler purpose cast.

The subsequent history of this location has but little of general interest. The frightful tales of ghosts seen around Bloody Pond for many years after the Revolution did not make it a spot especially adapted as a pleasure resort. It was not till the State of New York chose it as a site for Sing Sing prison that it again stepped into the limelight. Public sentiment was so strong against locating the prison here that, after doing considerable work, the State abandoned the project and turned it over to the Palisades Interstate Park. From a rough, neglected spot, overgrown with brambles and underbrush, the Commission has transformed it into a delightful pleasure resort. While the work here has, in a sense, only begun, yet in the very short time this section has been under the jurisdiction of the Park Board, it has built paths, cleared away undergrowth, blasted and removed many tons of rock and converted the ground into a beautiful playground which will accommodate thousands. The rock thus removed has been used in the construction of roadways and beautifying the locality in many other ways. A tastily designed pier has been constructed at the landing in the Hudson River where the largest river boats may land passengers. A water works system has been installed and a sewerage system started, the water being pumped from one of the copious and chemically pure springs found in abundance in this

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section. Shelter houses, a dancing floor and a pavilion, where hot and cold meals are served by the Commission, have been provided. A fleet of nearly 100 boats has been placed on Highland Lake and are at the disposal of the visitors. A large number of camp sites, including camp bottoms, have been prepared. Winding, romantic paths have been laid out, and there have also been provided a wading pool for little folks, swings, park benches, picnic tables and many other features which tend to enhance the pleasure of a day or season spent at Bear Mountain. As before stated, the work has only begun, and as the years pass by this work will continue and a wilderness will truly "blossom as the rose." While so much is being done to improve conditions, it is the aim to preserve the natural features as much as possible and leave it as near the state created by nature as is practicable. Its forest depths, its cosy, romantic spots, will be preserved and kept intact.

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ANTHONY'S NOSE
The sentinel peak at the southern end of the Hudson River Highlands

POINTS OF INTEREST

As every Indian looks alike to the white man, so every wooded height, valley, lake and stream looks the same to strangers who may see them unacquainted with their history. It is for this reason that an introduction to the points of interest in this section may prove of interest and value.

Anthony's Nose is an almost bare precipice, rising abruptly from the Hudson River near the southern entrance of the Hudson Highlands and opposite Bear Mountain Park landing. Historians differ as to when and why this peak received its name; but, weighing all the evidence, the verdict is that the Huguenot missionaries named the Hudson River St. Anthony's River, in honor of St. Anthony, who was the institutor of monastic life. He was born in Coma, Egypt, A.D. 251. The peak which bears his name today had at one time a prominent projection in the way of a ledge of rock a little way above the river, the shape of which gave it the appearance of a nose. This was blasted away in 1846 under direction of Captain Deering Ayers, engineer of a project to build a suspension bridge across the river at this point. This bridge company is in existence today and owns the land on the west side of the river where the site of Fort Clinton is located. On the summit of this peak, in the days of the red man, was located an Indian village belonging to the Nochpeems, a tribe of the Mohegan nation. A little back from its summit is an old copper mine from which the Indians obtained material for pipes and articles of

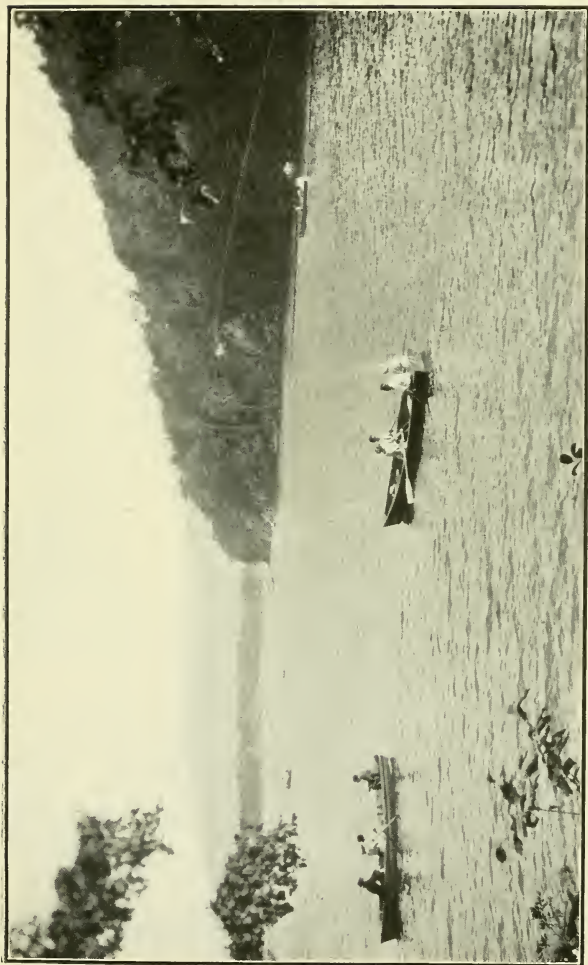
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adornment. The range of hills, of which Anthony's Nose is a part, is known as the Manitou range. It was named by the Indians the Kittelaney, or region of endless hills.

Highland Lake is a small body of water covering some 40 acres. On account of the clearness of its waters and its poetic surroundings, it is one of the most beautiful little lakes in America. It is fed by mountain springs and varies in depth from a few feet to nearly one hundred feet in a few places. While it affords most delightful boating facilities, owing to the unevenness of its bottom and the many cold springs which arise in it, it is very dangerous for bathing and this has been prohibited by the Park Commission. A boat ride on this lake in the evening is a most delightful experience. On one side the rugged side of Bear Mountain rises abruptly from the water and the varied colors of its forest mantle form a most beautiful picture. Off to the north, fading away in a blue, dreamy haze, can be seen a range of hills which one can easily imagine to be a Summer fairyland. Anthony's Nose and the Dunderbergs complete a panorama which only Nature is capable of painting. In such an hour, and under such a spell, one can easily lose himself in Summer dreams and imagine himself idly floating in magic fairyland.

The remains of Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery are both within easy walking distance from the boat landing. Fort Clinton lies about ten rods from the north shore of Highland Lake. Here a portion of the works is plainly visible. The small star-shaped outer work, shown on the map of the Revolutionary period, is in a perfect state of preservation. The remainder has been wholly destroyed in places and only faint traces

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HIGHLAND LAKE

One of the most poetic and beautiful little lakes in America. It is only one of the many found in the park

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are left of other parts. Fort Montgomery is about a mile farther to the north and lies in a forest of hemlock and other trees. To find these works one would need be familiar with the locality or secure one as a guide who is. The remains of this fort are very distinct, so much so that in portions of the breastworks the gun embrasures are still visible. Some day, no doubt, both these Revolutionary treasures will become a part of the park's possessions and will then be given the attention they deserve.

Just before reaching the park landing, and near the left shore, is an island described in the deed of land, already mentioned as Salsbury Island. This is now called Iona Island and is the location of a United States Government arsenal and lighthouse.

About four miles north of Bear Mountain and on the west shore of the Hudson lies the grave of Margaret Corbin, the heroine of the Battle of Fort Washington, and the first woman to receive a pension from our Government. This grave, like the old forts, is unmarked and only one who is acquainted with its location would be able to find it. Some day some patriotic minded person or persons may take the trouble to erect a fitting monument over her humble resting place.

Another interesting Revolutionary object is the Old Forge, found on the Forest of Dean Mine road, some two miles from Bear Mountain. Here parts of the chain placed across the river at West Point were made. This old forge in many other ways served our country in its days of need and peril.

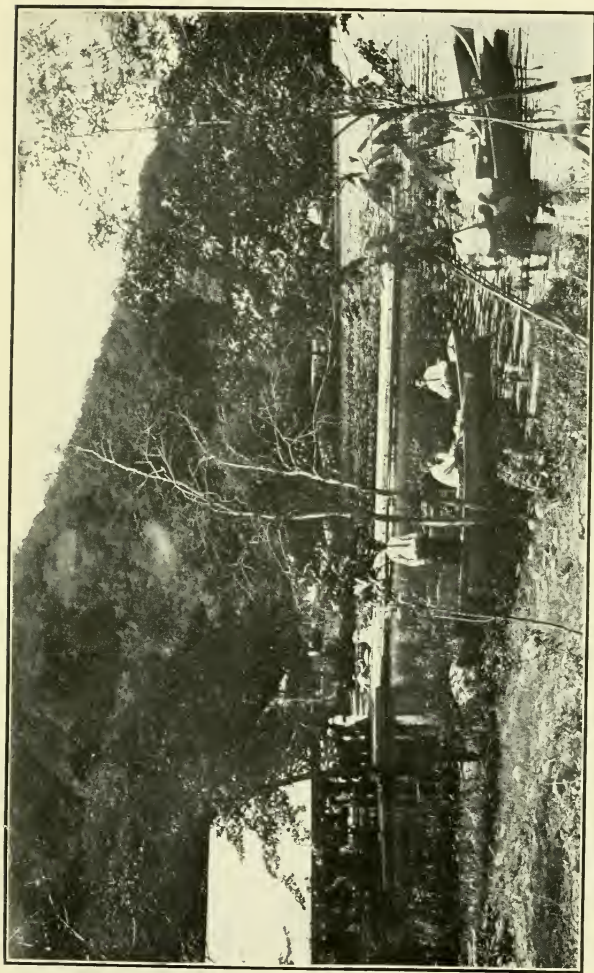
A very pleasant day can be spent in a trip to the Forest of Dean Mines, located some five miles from Bear

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Mountain. About thirty minutes' walk along this famous and historic Forest of Dean road, or Old Mine road, as it is locally known, will bring one to the terminus of the private mine railway. Here the ore is transferred to buckets suspended from an aerial trolley and carried down to the Hudson River. After they have been unloaded, visitors are permitted to ride back to the mine in the empty cars. The railroad winds around the side of a lofty hill known as the Torne. Here one can look over the side of the car into the valley beneath and secure a most fascinating view. It passes on through primeval forests, across romantic mountain streams and, after descending into and winding along a highland valley for a few miles, the mines are reached. Four trips are made daily, so that the visitor has plenty time to loiter in the picturesque locality, or visit another lake about double the size of Highland Lake and situated some two miles from the mines. This lake is named Popolopen, and is famous for its good fishing. Forest of Dean mine is one of the oldest mines in America which is still in operation. Its ore is iron and its supply seems to be inexhaustible. It was from this mine that a great deal of ore was taken to supply the needs of the Colonies during the war. Coming back along the Mine road, after leaving the railroad, one passes an old sycamore tree, which will be pointed out as having in its body many bullets. These were fired by the American and British as they met, as related in the narration of the capture of Forts Clinton and Montgomery, for it was at this point that the left wing of the British met the skirmishers from Fort Montgomery.

There are many other interesting trips in store for

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BOAT LANDING AT HIGHLAND LAKE

Here the visitor to Bear Mountain secures a boat, provided by the park, by which a most delightful hour is spent

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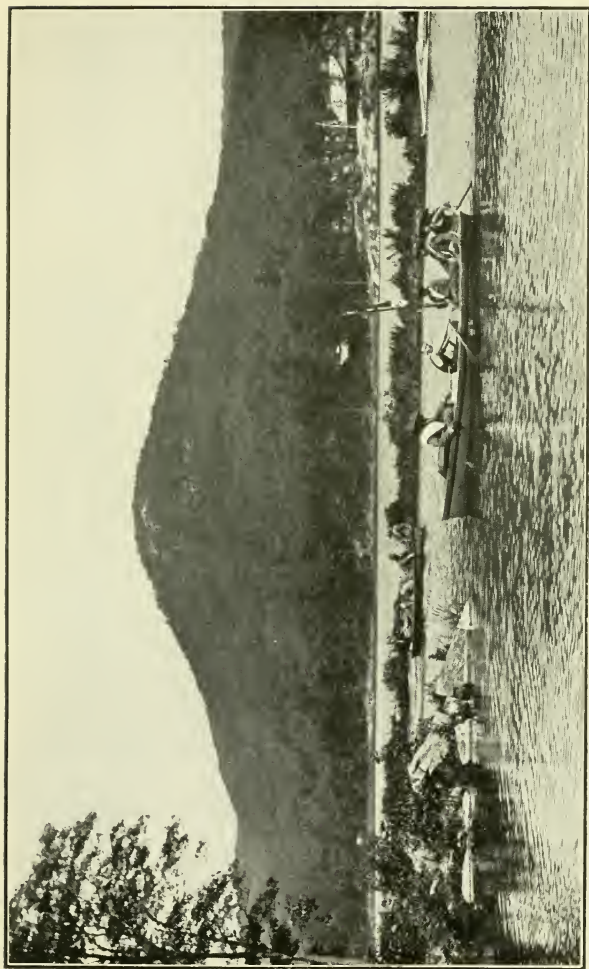
the one who enjoys a tramp along shady, romantic roads or in climbing mountain sides. West Point, with its famous military school, museum, library, parade grounds, etc., lies but about an hour's walk to the north. The road to West Point from Bear Mountain is one of the most delightful found along the Hudson. For a strenuous mountain climbing trip, requiring an entire day, one should follow the winding mountain road over Crow's Nest to the village of Cornwall. This road leads one through a wild, uninhabited stretch of country heavily wooded and as primeval as when the red men used it as a hunting ground. Here, on the mountain top, will be found a most inspiring view of the Hudson and West Point. Occasionally a drove of deer will be encountered, and other evidences of isolation from the haunts of men will be found in abundance. If one desires, he can return by rail to his starting point.

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HARRIMAN ESTATE SECTION

Away back in the hills, some fifteen miles from the Hudson River, is Arden, the country home of the late Edward H. Harriman, the famous railroad king. Mr. Harriman began life as a member of a large family belonging to an Episcopal minister. His boyhood days were spent as a messenger and in a clerical capacity in the famous Wall Street district of New York City. From this humble capacity he rose to become a power in the industrial and business world. In the hill ranges contributory to the Hudson River Highlands, he found an ideal retreat from the strenuous life of the great city. Here he laid out spacious grounds and erected a palatial home. Like Stevanus Van Cortlandt of old, he could not resist the temptation of acquiring a large tract of adjoining hills, valleys, lakes, streams and forests. Yet in it all he possessed a vague thought of some day, when he could find time, creating a vast park or preserve which would forever insure the preservation of the scenic beauties of this section. But that some day never came to him. However, shortly after his death, his widow donated to the State of New York ten thousand acres of this land and one million of dollars to be used in its improvement. Thus it came into possession of the Palisades Interstate Park. The western gateway of this vast tract lies on the Erie railway in the vicinity of Tuxedo; and that it may have a more accessible eastern portal, there is being constructed a magnificent highway from Bear Mountain and leading through a large portion of the land donated,

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CAR POND

Another of the Highland lakes found in the park and especially fitted for the use of the Boy Scouts of America

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and terminating at Tuxedo. This road will enable those desirous of a most pleasant drive to penetrate the interior of this great park and view its scenic beauties. This road will also serve as a trunk from which will lead other roads which, in time, will open the entire section and make it accessible to both day and season visitors. There are many places of scenic and historic interest found in this section. Among the features now under improvement is what is known as Car Pond. Here a pond and meadow have been so dammed as to produce a lake of some 45 acres in extent. Around this lake are being provided extensive camp grounds, fitted especially for Boy Scouts. A water-works system has been installed, an ice house built, shelters erected and many other improvements for the comfort and convenience of those visiting this vicinity for a day or season. Included in this tract are many other lovely and interesting lakes which will afford pleasure and health for thousands as soon as they can be made accessible. This section of the park has in reserve boundless possibilities which, as time will permit, will be developed and brought into greater prominence and use.

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CAMPING

A TENT IN THE MOUNTAINS

We sit at night by the camp fire bright
While twice-told tales are told,
And list to the sounds that there abound
As the mists the hills enfold.

On the mountains high, where the pine trees sigh,
The deer calls softly to his mate;
From the tree tops tall the night bird's call
Comes weird and strange and late.

The cricket's song from the rocks along
Makes the eyelids droop in sleep,
Or the thoughts to muse or mind to choose
Some subject broad and deep.

The bullfrog's bass from his mossy place
Beats time in Nature's choir,
While the stars throw out their beams about,
And the fly his lamp of fire.

A great white light o'er a rocky height
Clothes all in a ghostly shroud
As the moon rides forth on her nightly course,
Or breaks from a somber cloud.

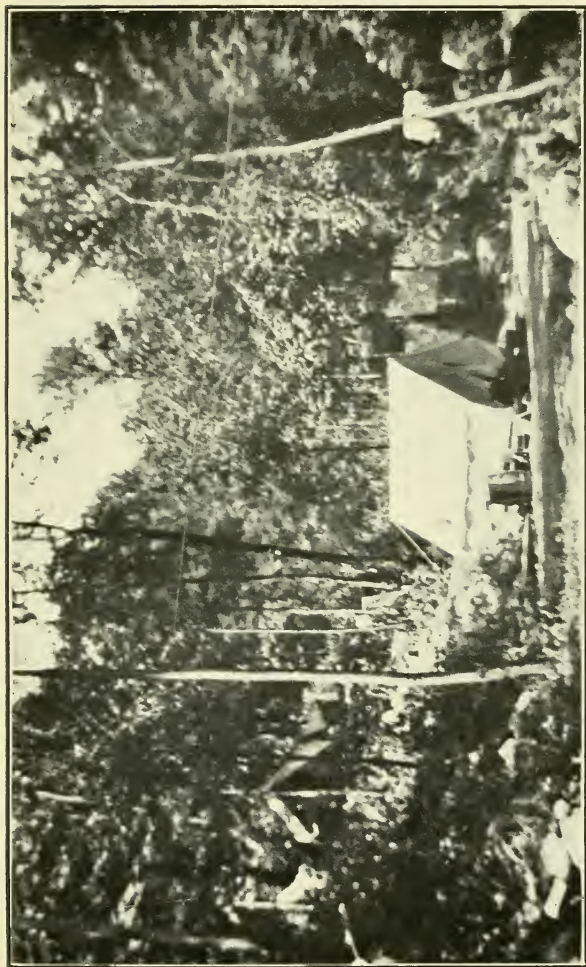
'Cross the lake's dark bed there's strangely spread
A bright path of silvery sheen,
Which seems like a way to the gates of day,
Or the isle of Summer dreams.

The lily, white in its robes of night,
Opens its heart of gold,
And scatters incense rare like a goddess fair
In sacred temples old.

Here the city's dull roar or sand-parched shore
Comes as only a troubled dream;
For here we find rest where Nature has blessed
With life that's most serene.

The fire burns low and its embers glow,
And the night wind breathes a prayer,
And lulls us to sleep and to dreams as sweet
And pure as the mountain air.

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A TENT IN THE MOUNTAINS

Only a suggestion of the romantic life of a Summer home away from the "city's dull roar or sand-parched shore"

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The pleasure and profit which will be the share of one seeking out-of-door recreation through the means of camp life will depend largely on one's knowledge of the habits of Nature and his ability to meet Nature advantageously on her own ground. The joys of camp life may be spoiled by an attempt to live too near the rules of permanent home life or, on the other hand, abandoning all rules of civilized or even primitive living. For example, some seem to think that a tent was made to live in. On the contrary, it should be considered only as a shelter from the elements. The woods and fields should be the place of living and the tent the least used of all. Again, the preparing of proper food in the proper manner is a most important adjunct to happy and enjoyable camp life.

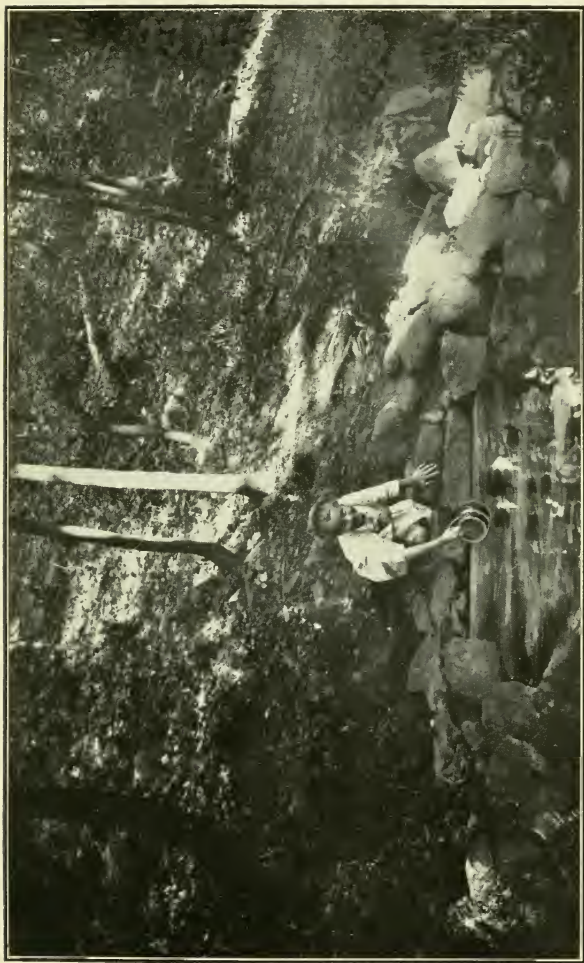
The first and most important item in camping is to select a proper camp site. It is natural to choose some shady, romantic spot for the tent. But shade and romance should be left to out-of-door living. The tent should be pitched on ground with proper drainage and as free from dampness as possible. It should be so placed as to receive a few hours of bright sunlight each day. This is important, as it is necessary to free the tent of dampness which, in the best of locations, will permeate it at night. A dry, airy tent and bedding are vital to a healthful and pleasant night's rest. Another item of equal importance is water. There is no water so healthful as that of a clear, cold, pure spring. This should be a natural spring with its water bubbling up out of the earth's depth and not as seepage from the surface of the ground. Surface water is contaminated with all that lies on the surface of the ground or with which it comes in contact. But even a natural spring may become contami-

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nated by allowing impure matter on its water-shed. If the water supply be carefully selected and taken care of, two-thirds of the difficulties of camp life are done away with.

As in many other things, the pleasure of camping does not depend on the amount of money expended, but on the intelligence exercised. Everything possible should be planned to eliminate as much work as possible, yet provide the necessary comforts. Some of the greatest pleasures in camping will be found in fixing up camp. As before stated, the tent should be considered only as a place of shelter. It is the tent surroundings which should receive the greatest amount of attention. The true sportsman will scorn a soft couch, but one who has been suddenly transported from a comfortable bed to the forest wilds will not find the hard ground a pleasant or comfortable place for rest. Consequently, cosy corners among the trees, consisting of bought or camp-made hammocks or seats, will be found most desirable. Folding camp cots will cost from \$1.50 to \$5.00 each and will answer very well for those who do not care for the expense incurred. But equally as good, if not better, cots can be made for a small sum of money and will be found much easier to transport to and from camp. Such cots consist of a couple of yards of 12-ounce duck canvas with a loop sown along each side through which poles may be run. The ends of the poles should project far enough to give a secure anchorage for the cot. By placing a cross-piece between the poles at each end to keep them from drawing together and placing the ends on stakes or a block of wood sufficiently high from the ground to give proper or desired height, a most comfortable bed is to be had. Then, when the cot is not in use, it can be set

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AT THE SPRING

"There is no water as healthful as that of a clear, cold spring"

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aside and put into small space. Upon breaking up camp the poles can be discarded and the canvas made into a small, light bundle. Such cots need not cost more than fifty or seventy-five cents each at the most.

All bedding should be thoroughly aired and dried each day. In the way of bedding the main item is to provide quantity. The evenings in all mountain or hilly regions are chilly as a rule and plenty of covering is a necessity for comfort. A good double wool or heavy cotton blanket will suffice for each person except in extreme cases.

There are but few who know how to build a serviceable camp fire. To do this with a minimum of fuel and at the same time secure a maximum of serviceable heat is an art. The American Indian, perhaps, of all races, had reduced that art to its greatest degree of fineness. The fire built by the white man was a standing joke with the Indian. The Indian's fire consisted of a few small twigs so placed as to concentrate the blaze and heat at one point and eliminate as much smoke as possible. To accomplish this he frequently placed his fuel on end with the tops brought closely together in the form of a cone. In this manner he secured a perfect draught and in a surprisingly short time eliminated the smoke and produced a bed of hot coals over which he cooked his food. A small rock placed in the center will support the fuel and have a tendency to hold the heat. Fuel laid flat will soon become compact and shut off the draught which smothers the blaze and gives forth only smoke. If one is to occupy a camp site for any considerable length of time, it will be found profitable to lay a wall of earth or stone having three sides with one end left open. Across the top of this can be laid a netting of wire to support

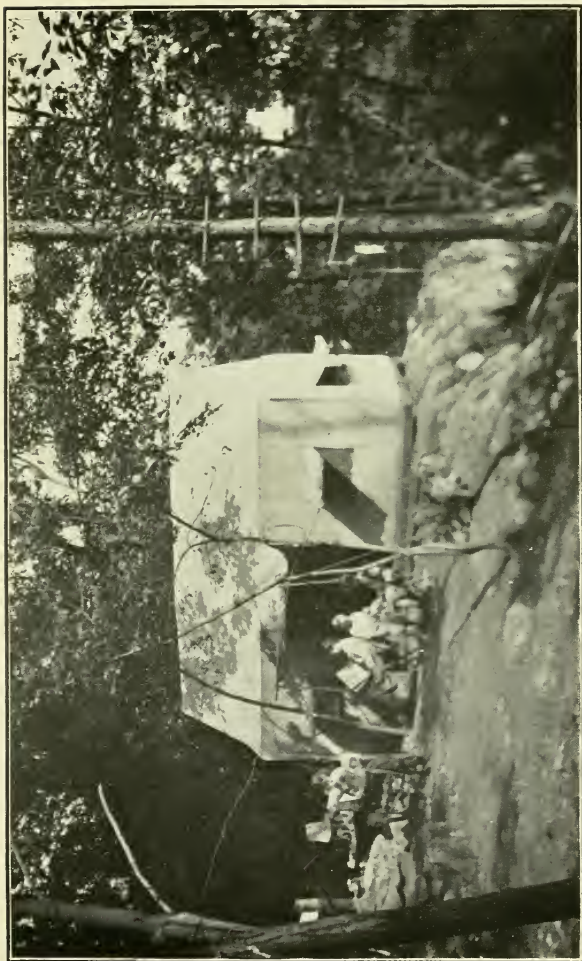
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cooking utensils or to lay poles or rods on which can be hung pots, etc. In addition to the convenience thus afforded, the walls will keep the wind from blowing the fire and ashes, thus insuring more comfort in cooking and safety from forest fires. By placing the fuel in the form of a cone, as before described, the heat will be centered and a strong draught secured which will keep the smoke at its lowest volume. A more perfect fire-place can be had by covering the top of the walls with a piece of tin or sheet iron, leaving a small space at the back for the escape of smoke. This method will keep the cooking utensils from becoming covered with smoke and will, to all intents and purposes, perform the functions of a kitchen stove.

There is another fire almost as useful in camp as the fire for cooking and that is the evening camp fire. No evening in camp is perfect without the camp fire. This fire, while on a much larger scale, should be built much as the fire for cooking. The tops of the fuel should be secured by a hoop which will keep it from falling apart after the fire has got under way. In building such a fire, a quantity of dry leaves and small twigs should be placed in the center. Around this the longer fuel is placed. When the fire is lighted a shaft of flame will be shot skyward and the effect will be most cheering and fascinating. If the outer fuel be a little damp, all the better, as it will last longer, and, if anything, burn with greater beauty. The camp fire is the inspiration of evening stories or Summer dreams. In addition to this, it will dispel the evening chill and afford a most enjoyable hour between nightfall and bedtime.

In pitching the tent its drainage should be carefully looked to. If a tent bottom is used, and the tent does not cover the bottom completely, the exposed portion

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A SUMMER HOME

This represents the portable camp house as it appears through the trees and surrounded by nature's protecting mantle of living green

THE GREATEST PARK IN THE WORLD

should slant away from the tent. Then, instead of the water running through the tent, it will run away from it. If a tent bottom is not used, a ditch should be dug around the tent with an outlet leading away from the lower side.

Now a few more words as to the tent itself. Its material should not be lighter than ten ounce. Then if the roof be sufficiently steep, a fly will not be necessary. The advantages claimed for a fly are that it keeps out the rain and glare of the sun. But for reasons already given, the sun is a vital necessity each day, and when it is shining the tent is not needed, so that the sun's glare will not be objectionable as it is at such times the cozy nooks about camp will be in use. If a roof should not shed the water, a little paraffine melted in gasoline and spread over the roof will insure it performing its functions.

The smallest tent which can be occupied with comfort by two persons is a nine by nine feet. This leaves plenty of room for cots and storage of camp equipment, which cannot be conveniently left on the outside. Of course, any shelter will answer the purpose as an absolute necessity and can be as primitive and simple as desired, but such will serve only as a makeshift while roughing it.

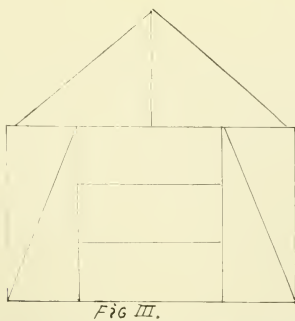
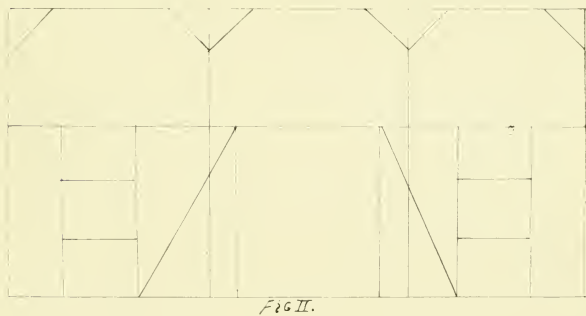
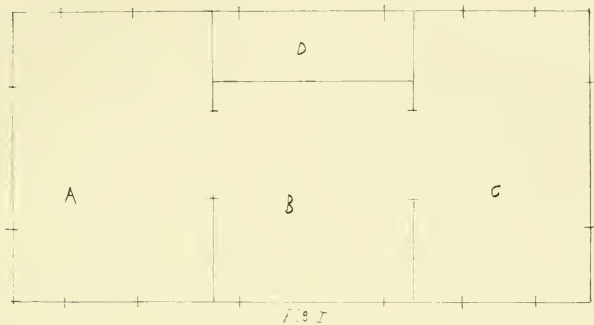
For those who desire to spend an entire season in camp and enjoy the comforts of home, a portable camp house will be found most enjoyable. To provide one's self with such it is not necessary to make an outlay of a hundred or more dollars usually asked for such houses. A framework of light poles made of one-inch and one-quarter round, and connected with iron joints consisting of pieces of common piping with ordinary T connections for cross supports, will cost from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for a house 10 by 15 or 10 by 20 feet with a 6-foot wall. The walls

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and roof made of 10-ounce duck will cost about \$20 more. Then allowing \$5.00 for odds and ends, the entire house can be had for from \$30.00 to \$35.00. A saw and hammer are all that one needs to put it together. A day's work with a sewing machine will make the cover. To assist those who may care to avail themselves of such a Summer home, the following directions are offered:

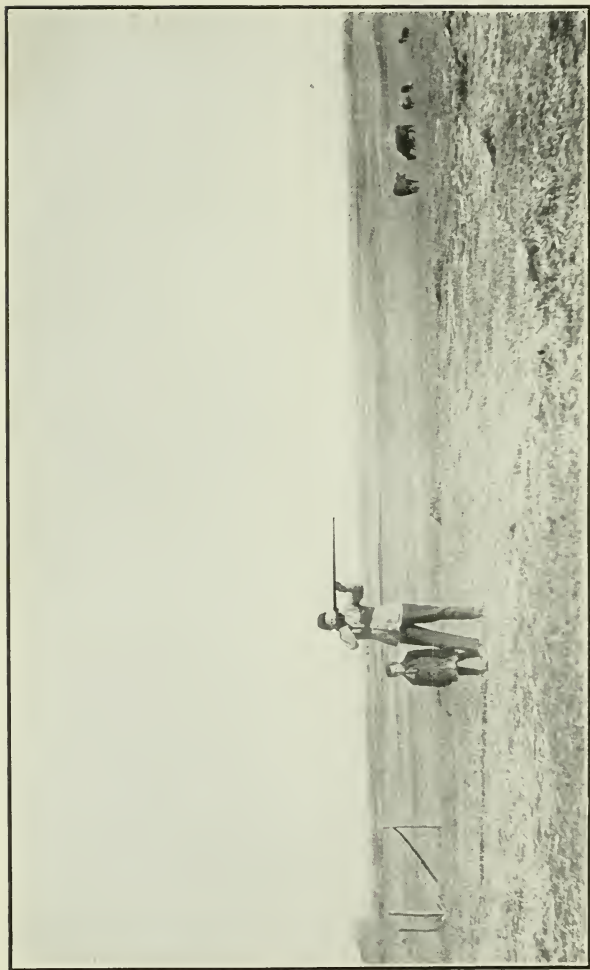
Fig. I is a floor plan. A is bedroom, B sitting room, C dining-room and kitchen. D is a home-made couch which will be found most convenient for an afternoon nap on rainy days or can be used for a seat. The bedroom, if the house be 10 by 20 feet, will accommodate four cots. Fig. II is elevation of frame work, side view. The walls should be six feet in height and the ridge pole four feet higher. Fig. III is end view of frame elevation. Note that the lower ends of the ridge pole supports do not come out to the wall line. The reason for this is that these supports should not touch the roof canvas. If they do the roof is likely to leak. The two cross center walls should be constructed the same as the ends, with the exception that there is no provision for window. In sewing the canvas care should be exercised to see that the end windows and back center window take two breadths as well as the front door. The other windows require but one breadth. A house of convenient size will require eight breadths of canvas the long way and four across each end. Round foot plates with socket or angle irons should be used at the base of all upright framework reaching the floor. If a floor is used, the canvas should be tacked around the bottom to the floor and around the windows and door to the framework. Such a house will be found most comfortable and will insure a delightful Summer vacation.

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PLANS FOR PORTABLE SUMMER HOUSE

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A WESTERN PRAIRIE

As far as the eye can reach stretch undulating fields of grass and wild flowers. These prairies, before the artificial forests appeared, were subjected each season to terrific blizzards in Winter and the hot, destroying winds of Summer

FOREST PRESERVATION

But few appreciate the great value and vital importance of our forests. In early days, in the West, the hot winds which each season swept over the prairies and plains country, burning up vegetation and destroying life, were the greatest hindrance to settlement. These winds, through the planting of artificial forests, have disappeared and today what was known as The Great American Desert is now the granary of America. The gentle, undulating prairies are no more vast stretches of dry prairie grass, reflecting the torrid heat of the sun, for as far as the eye can see appear forests of all kinds of trees known to that latitude. These gather moisture, break the winds and throw off those elements so necessary to both animal and vegetable life. In short, the artificial forests of the West have made possible the greatest and most fertile agricultural belt on the American continent. Ignorance and indifference to this great fact have led to the denuding of the forest sections of not only the Atlantic seaboard, but elsewhere. In the 14th annual report of the Commissioners of Palisades Interstate Park will be found some exceedingly interesting and valuable data as to what is being done and planned for the future in the way of forest preservation throughout the park. During the Summer of 1914 an army of men has been busy pruning, trimming and clearing the forests in different parts of the park. The less promising trees and unprofitable and hindering growth have been cleared away and, while a continuous canopy of overhead branches has been left,

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where such was possible, the general appearance of the forests has been greatly improved and the remaining trees given much greater opportunity to grow. The marketable cuttings have been made into cordwood the value of which has gone a long way toward paying the cost of clearing. This surplus growth will, in time, not only pay for the forest maintenance, but leave a balance on the profit side. On spots where, on account of forest fires or careless cutting, the ground has been left bare, new trees are being planted. The park is installing an extensive nursery of its own by which tree planting can be carried on at a minimum of cost. Thus the park will soon become another example of what can be done for the promotion of the public good.

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AN ARTIFICIAL FOREST ON THE PRAIRIE

A view of the inside of one of these artificial prairie forests, showing an apple tree in full bloom and a background of pine, hemlock, spruce and other protecting and life-giving trees

HENRY HUDSON DRIVE

Ever since the Hudson River assumed commercial importance and received world-wide fame from a scenic standpoint, the necessity of a more direct and convenient highway along its western shore has been painfully evident. This necessity has resulted in what is now known as the Henry Hudson Drive. This project has for its aim the building of an efficient highway along the west shore of the river from the Palisades to Albany. This great highway is now under construction and is being rapidly pushed to completion. Only those who have taken passage on a Hudson River boat from New York City to Albany can fully realize the obstacles to be surmounted and the value which will accrue from its use when completed. Space will not permit a detailed review of this, but the whole matter can be summed up in saying that after mountain ranges have been pierced, gorges and rivers have been bridged, hills and valleys properly graded and an enduring and efficient roadbed laid, no highway on the globe will render greater practical service or offer more entrancing pleasures. This great highway will pass through some sixty miles of the greatest park in the world and will lend to and receive from the park inestimable value.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

For fear some may believe this great park is a wilderness inhabited only by wild animals and a rendezvous for outlaws, it is well to call attention to the fact that it is policed by an efficient and thoroughly organized body of men. These men are on duty both night and day in such sections as are ready for visitors, and as perfect order is maintained as in any metropolitan park. Aside from being caretakers, they are officers of the State, with full powers of the State constabulary. However, it is to the credit of the visitors to this park that but few arrests are necessary, as everyone seems to feel he is a guest of the park and that as especial provisions have been made for his comfort, it behooves him to show his appreciation. The police force is chosen largely from men who are natives of the section in which they serve. Thus they are able to render the greatest service through their acquaintance with the locality. The accompanying photograph shows a group of these officers as they appear at Bear Mountain. This force is under the direction of a chief, to whom they are responsible for the posts to which they are assigned. It will be interesting to know that many of the men shown in this picture are descendants of those Highland patriots who so nobly defended this section against our nation's foe during Revolutionary days, and as through them the spirit of the days of 1776 still lives, the park's interests, as well as the safety and comfort of its visitors, are in good hands.

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'POLICE AT BEAR MOUNTAIN

This represents a squad of the police force employed by the park. These men maintain perfect order and insure protection to the park's guests

OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PARK

While in this book the park has been presented in three sections, there are other points along the Hudson River which do not properly come under either of these sections, among which is Hook Mountain and Blauvelt.

At Hook Mountain quarrying interests have been most active and a point of especial scenic interest was fast being destroyed. This the park has secured and is converting into an attractive playground.

At Blauvelt is a tract comprising some 324 acres of land and at the time it was secured by the park had several improvements in the way of buildings which are now being used for the benefit of visitors. Here the park has provided most delightful accommodations for a Summer camp for girls. This, the past two seasons, has been conducted under the efficient management of the Young Women's Christian Association. Here a most pleasant and profitable Summer vacation is within reach of working girls, and thousands are availing themselves of it.

The camp is thoroughly organized and conducted in a most systematic and orderly manner. Nearly every sort of amusement is provided and no Summer resort can boast of greater natural or more beneficial attractions for those who desire comfort and enjoyment at a minimum of expense.

These sections are only links in the great chain reaching along the Hudson River, but, as at other points, they have demonstrated their value many times in excess of their cost. These values will increase and the great good they will do will be multiplied as the years roll by.

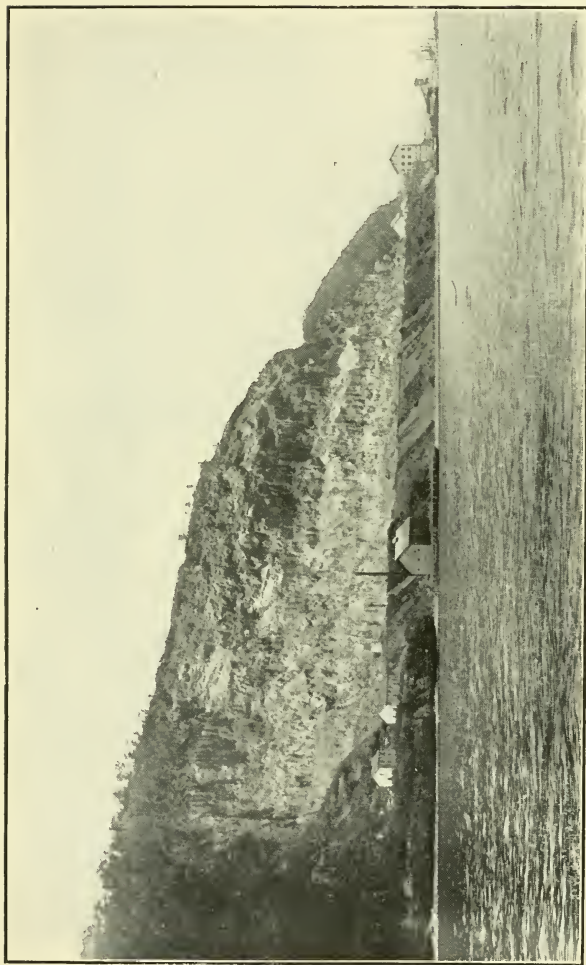
POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE HUDSON

Every headland, hill, valley and stream along the Hudson has its story, and that some of these may have opportunity to tell such, the writer has inserted this chapter.

The first landing after leaving New York City is Yonkers—*Der Yonker's Landt*, as it was first named by the Dutch. When the Dutch settled New York, or New Amsterdam, as they called it, they brought over from Holland the feudal land system of that country. The rule in America was that anyone who in four years planted a colony with fifty souls was granted a manor or patronship and given the title of Lord of the Manor. Among those who had ambitions in this direction was Adrian Van Der Donk, the first lawyer in New York City. Through services rendered and financial assistance given to the new colony, he received a large tract of land where the city of Yonkers now stands; and while he was not, strictly speaking, Lord of the Manor, he was looked upon as of the gentleman class. Consequently, his land was spoken of as "The Gentleman's Land," or, in Dutch, *Der Yonker's Landt*. Thus the name Yonkers grew out of it. Among other improvements made by Van Der Donk was the erection of a saw mill on a small stream, which to this day is called Saw Mill Creek. The biography of this old Dutchman would not only be interesting reading but of a necessity constitute a history of the early Dutch in New York City.

Dobbs Ferry plays a prominent part in the early

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HOOK MOUNTAIN

An impressive example of what commerce has been doing in the way of destroying the scenic beauties of the Hudson River. Here its hand has been stayed, but its scar will remain forever

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history of the river and especially of the Revolution. It received its name from a man by the name of Dobbs who, for many years, operated a ferry across the river at this point. It was near here that Arnold, the traitor, and Andre, the British spy, first attempted to meet. It was an important and strategic point with both armies during the Revolutionary War. There are many interesting old landmarks found in this vicinity and the frequent mention by writers of American history of this landing includes many of them.

Tarrytown has been made immortal by Washington Irving's *Legends of Sleepy Hollow*. Tradition says it received its name from being a loitering or loafing place for convivial Dutchmen whose thrifty wives most strongly disapproved of their conduct and in contempt named it Tarrytown. It was at Tarrytown that Major Andre, the British spy, was captured by three minute men. Sleepy Hollow is a deep ravine just outside the village of Tarrytown and is the mecca of many travelers interested in American history and literature. Here will be found the little brook over which Ichabod Crane thundered on the erratic Gunpowder in his attempt to escape from the headless horseman. Sleepy Hollow church and cemetery lie on the sloping side of Sleepy Hollow and among the graves of many noted persons is that of Washington Irving and the Irving family. In this cemetery will also be found the last resting places of many staid old Dutch burghers who, in their day, made this region one of quaint pastoral beauty. The old church remains today much as it did centuries ago and is an object of much interest to visitors.

Tappan lies a little above and on the opposite shore

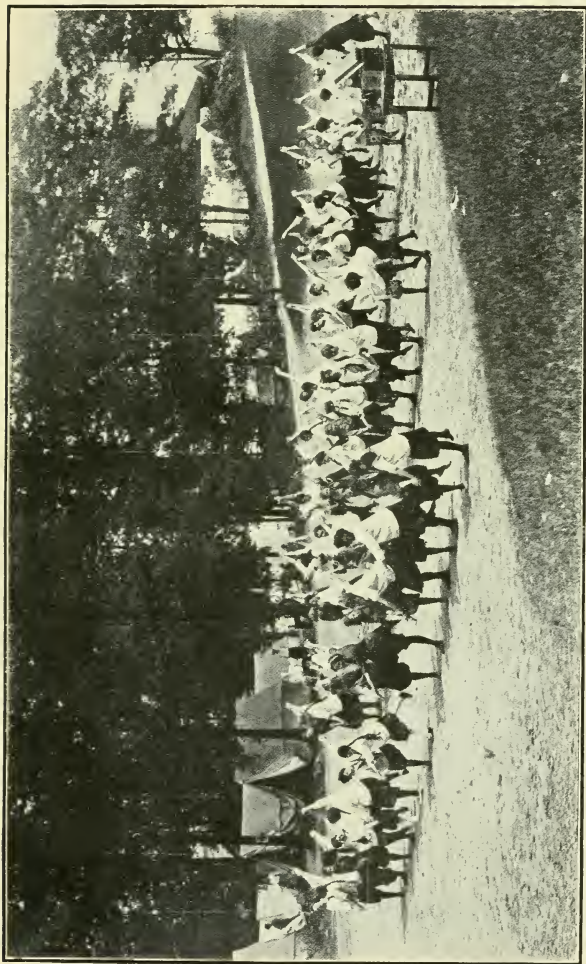
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and at the southern end of the "Tappan Zee," or Tappan sea, so named on account of the width of the river at this point. This locality is also rich in legends and points of historic interest.

On the right or east side of the river a little farther up stream is the village of Ossining, site of the famous State penitentiary, Sing Sing. The erection of this prison began in 1829 and the buildings completed then are still in use today as the burial place of men still living—for incarceration in their damp, death-breeding walls is nothing less. Some day, no doubt, society will learn that persecution is not reformation, and destruction of all that tends to make man better does not accomplish the most possible in our institutions for correction. Ossining derives its name from a tribe of Indians named Sinck Sincks, or, as it is sometimes called, Ossinksinks. From this name both the village and prison have derived their names. The land on which the village and prison stand was purchased from the Indians on August 13th, 1685, by Frederick Philipse and became part of the great Philipse manor. The village of Croton a little farther up, is the site of the famous Croton reservoir, from which New York City receives a large portion of its water. The village is named after the famous Indian chief, Croton, who was a powerful factor among the Indians of his nation, the Mohegans, and possessed many virtues for which the first settlers had reason to be thankful. Here were also located an Indian village and a burying ground. The name of this village was Kitchawan.

Across the river from Croton, and a little to the north, is the village of Haverstraw. This village is named after a tribe of Indians who occupied the region and had their

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FOLK DANCE AT BLAUVELT

One of the many pastimes indulged in at the girls' camp at Blauvelt. Had this opportunity not been presented, many of these girls would have been obliged to spend their meager vacation on the hot, dusty and contaminating streets of a great city

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seat of local government where the village of Haverstraw now stands. The Haverstraws were quite powerful and are frequently mentioned in early land deeds of this section. One of their deeds has received mention in connection with the Bear Mountain land purchase.

Stony Point, the scene of "Mad Anthony's" famous and successful exploit during the Revolution, is another especially interesting and celebrated spot. Anthony Wayne was one of the many valuable men which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania gave to the forces of Washington. His capture of Stony Point, while his most sensational act, was only one of his many deeds of daring. The capture of Stony Point, which won him not only the praise of his countrymen, but the admiration of England as well, was of great value to the American cause. As the story of this exploit is found in every American history, space will not be given to it here. One item not often mentioned is worth giving, as it shows how carefully the assault was planned. It is said that he caused every dog in the vicinity to be killed and every person suspected of having Tory leanings to be jailed or kept under guard, so that the enemy would in no way learn of their approach. And so successful was he in this that very strong and important fortifications were captured almost without a struggle or loss of a man. Interesting remains and relics of this fortification are being carefully preserved and may be seen by the visitor to this place.

Across the river from Stony Point, and a few miles above, is the village of Peekskill. It is named after the first white settler, a man named Peek. The kill is the Dutch word for a small stream, and in this case refers to

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a small creek emptying into the Hudson at this place. originally called Peek's Creek, or Peekskill. At this place General Putnam made his headquarters for a considerable time and while here built Fort Independence, traces of which can yet be seen. Here was also another Indian village named Sachoos.

Iona Island is the last point of interest before reaching Bear Mountain. Here the United States Government has a large arsenal from which the Department of the East draws a large part of its ammunition. Here also is a lighthouse which each night lights the entrance to the southern end of the Hudson Highland passage.

From here on to Albany the shores of the Hudson contain many points of great historic interest; but as it is the purpose of this book to tell only the story of the greatest park in the world, we will not go beyond its borders.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

In solving the problem of transportation to the different sections of the park, the Commission has provided a special ferry boat service to the Palisades, so that those desiring to spend the day or a season there will have a quick and easy means of going and returning. Bear Mountain lies up the river about forty miles from New York and is reached by the West Shore Railroad or river boats. The round trip fare by rail is \$1.75, and the commuting fare is \$11.50 per month. Trains can be had at almost any hour in the day coming and going. It takes about an hour and a half to make the trip by rail and two hours by boat. The round trip fare by boat is fifty cents, with half fare for children.

Accommodations have been provided at Bear Mountain for serving refreshments, including hot and cold meals. This is under the supervision of the Commission. There are no intoxicating liquors sold in or near the park. It is the aim of the Commission to sell all food at a price which will only cover the cost of producing and serving. The popularity of this feature has been many times demonstrated the season just passed. The Commission's office at Bear Mountain is equipped with a long distance telephone which is at the service of visitors. Through this office also mail can be received by addressing letters to Iona Island, New York, in care of Palisades Interstate Park.

HISTORY OF PALISADES PARK INTERSTATE COMMISSION

Now that we have read and become somewhat acquainted with the great work done and being done by this Commission, a few words as to the personnel and history of this Commission will be of interest.

The necessity of preserving the Palisades became evident years before the Commission came into existence. The first move in this direction was an attempt to induce the United States Government to purchase a tract of land including the Palisades and use it for a military reservation. In 1895 a resolution was introduced into the Legislatures of New York and New Jersey for "a military fortification and reservation." After being carried in both Legislatures, the matter was submitted to the House Committee on Military Affairs in the fifty-fourth Congress. The proposal was not accepted then and was again refused when submitted to the fifty-fifth Congress. The promoters of the enterprise were not discouraged, however, and in 1899 a bill was passed in the Legislature of New Jersey empowering the Governor to appoint a committee of five to "report on the present condition of the Palisades and suggest some remedy or remedies to prevent the Palisades from defacement and depredation." This movement was carried forward by the Federation of Women's Clubs, and to the good women of New Jersey must a great deal of credit be given for bringing about what is today the greatest park in the world. New York State was not lacking in interest. Among those

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prominent in promoting the project in New York were Andrew H. Green, "Father of Greater New York," and the then Governor of New York, Theodore Roosevelt. The New York Legislature passed a resolution similar to that passed by New Jersey and Governor Roosevelt appointed a committee to confer with the one from New Jersey. After conferences covering nearly a year, a definite plan was decided upon. The next step was the securing of such legislation as was necessary for the appointing of a permanent Commission with powers to purchase and hold for each State such lands as were considered necessary to carry out the plan agreed upon. Such legislation was promptly forthcoming in New York, and a bill was signed by Governor Roosevelt, March 22, 1900. In New Jersey, however, the matter was not so easy. Powerful quarry interests used their influence, if not money, to defeat the legislation. But, as in most instances where there is a great cause backed by earnest, determined men and women, the day was won and the Commission became an established fact.

The members of this Commission have changed but little since the first ones were appointed. The names of those first appointed were as follows: From New York—George W. Perkins, J. DuPratt White, Ralph Trautmann, D. McNeely Stauffer and Nathan F. Barrett; from New Jersey—Abram S. Hewitt, Edwin A. Stevens, Franklin W. Hopkins, William A. Linn and Abram De Ronde. The names of the Commissioners now holding office are as follows: From New York—George W. Perkins, J. Du Pratt White, Edward L. Partridge, William H. Porter, Nathan F. Barrett; from New Jersey—Franklin W.

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Hopkins, Edwin A. Stevens, Richard V. Lindabury, Frederick C. Sutro and Charles Whiting Baker.

These men are representative citizens of these two States, and are men of large affairs, broad views of life and of such type as dream dreams by which nations advance and the human race is elevated. And so long as the present policy of the park control is pursued, its future is assured and the greatest good will accrue to the greatest number.

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A PROPHECY

A DREAM

I sat one eve by the camp fire's glow
While the shadows built a wall
Around on the dark forest glade
And the stately tree tops tall.

Nature's choir sang its droning song
And the stars celestial seemed,
Until at last, in slumber wrapped,
I dreamed a wondrous dream.

Where forest stood a city rose
And its streets with fetid breath
Were thronged with old and children young
Policed by the reaper Death.

On beds of pain in silent wards,
Or in attics vile and dim
The fevered sick tossed restlessly,
All nursed by that reaper, grim.

Young children fair with life before
Were smirched with the city's slime;
Youth who only pure should know
Were tasting the fruits of crime.

As thus I gazed in horror bound,
An angel with magic wand
Emptied the streets and beds of pain
And flew to the fields beyond.

And there in Nature's wondrous school,
In its streams and skies of blue,
They washed their stains and fevered brows
And blossomed to health anew.

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As before stated, this book has not been written as an advertisement of Palisades Interstate Park or of anyone connected with it. Nor has the Commission had any hand in its making other than to extend courtesies to the writer which would aid him in gathering the necessary material. Therefore, the writer feels at liberty to give free rein to his fancy and prophesy to his heart's content as to the future of this great park. If it should so happen that some of his prophecies come true, it will be on account of his powers of prophecy and not because of advance information given him by anyone in position to give such.

I have called this *The Greatest Park in the World*, and have done so only after two seasons' study and observation of the park at short range. True greatness consists not in fame or power, but is the crown placed on the brow of one who so uses his talents as to best benefit and elevate mankind. There are other great parks, great in extent and fame, and in these two points much greater than is the park which is the subject of this book; but, considering its possibilities for doing good to the greatest number, it easily becomes the greatest park in the world.

There is a well recognized element in the make-up of States and individuals, which prompts praise and support of anything which has proven its ability to succeed in spite of such support. But the time is not far distant when the States most directly interested will awake to the fact that this great park is their largest dividend-paying investment. A few parents have already caught the thought that camp life during vacation time is the best life for their children. If every child in New York City or in any other city could spend a month at least of each Summer living close to Nature, the expense of our juvenile

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NATURE'S SCHOOLROOM

One of the numerous schoolrooms of Nature found in this great park. "Here she will enroll these restless souls in her great school, teach them her ways, show them her children, and gently lead them to the Great Creator of all"

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courts and public hospitals would be greatly decreased, and our social life would become more pure. This much is not a dream. Palisades Interstate Park offers ideal conditions by which such a state of affairs can be brought about. The park's forest-clad domains will become the seat of numerous cities whose houses are made of canvas, whose streets are carpeted by Nature's velvet green, whose water supply comes bubbling from the rocks out of Nature's wonderful distillery, and whose air is from the uncontaminated and boundless billows of heaven. These streets will lead to green fields bedecked with Nature's fairest wild flowers and to woodlands ringing with the songs of Nature's undisturbed minstrels. Here Nature will enroll these restless, impatient souls in her great school, teach them her ways, show them her children and gently lead them toward the Great Creator of all.

The beautiful sunsets, the wondrous cloudlands, the brilliant constellations of heaven's evening canopy will awaken that city dulled element in their souls which will make them broader and deeper and prepare them for more efficient citizenship. As these conditions become more and more apparent, there is no need which will not be promptly and gladly filled by the people through themselves or their representatives; and as the great work goes on, other States and municipalities will catch the spirit, and the youth of our land, who are the actors of the coming generation, will be given opportunity to develop the best there is in them in the place of each vacation season becoming burden bearers or workshops of Satan.

Call this a dream if you will, but don't lose sight of the fact that during the season of 1914 there has been going on

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in this great park, on a small scale, what will, as the years go by, become the picture I have painted.

This, my readers, is the purpose and future of this great park. If it is your good fortune to stand some hazy, dreamy, Summer day beneath the folds of Old Glory, floating proudly from the flagstaff on Bear Mountain Plateau, may this vision come to you as it has to me and you will become enwrapped, as I have been, and will say with me, "This is the Greatest Park in the World."



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Neutralizing Agent: Magnesium Oxide
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1993



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